



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT:

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**U.S. ANNOUNCES SENTENCING OF MAN IN LARGEST
IDENTITY THEFT CASE IN NATION'S HISTORY**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that PHILIP CUMMINGS was sentenced to 14 years in prison in Manhattan federal court today for his role in a massive scheme to steal the identities of up to 30,000 people. CUMMINGS is the lead defendant in the largest identity theft case known to U.S. authorities.

CUMMINGS was sentenced after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy, one count of wire fraud and one count of fraud in connection with identification documents. As part of his sentence, CUMMINGS was ordered to forfeit \$1 million in proceeds of the scheme. Cummings also will be ordered to pay restitution to the victims of the scheme, with the amount of restitution to be set at a later date.

According to the Indictment, CUMMINGS previously worked as a help desk employee at Teledata Communications, Inc. ("TCI"), a technology company that provided its customers with computerized access to the three commercial credit history bureaus - Equifax,

Experian and TransUnion credit bureaus. As a help desk employee, CUMMINGS had access to confidential passwords and subscriber codes pertaining to TCI customers who used TCI software to download consumer credit histories from the credit bureaus in connection with their legitimate business needs. Together with co-conspirator Linus Baptiste, CUMMINGS accessed the credit bureaus and downloaded more than 30,000 consumer credit histories from about early 2000 through about October 2002.

The Indictment alleges that Baptiste then would supply the stolen credit reports to a number of individuals, including co-defendant Eniete Ukpog who, in turn, would use the credit reports to obtain, among other things, credit cards in the names of the various individuals listed in the reports. These individuals then would use the credit cards to purchase merchandise, such as computers and electronic equipment, which they then would resell to other co-conspirators, including co-defendant Ahmet Ulutas.

In advance of CUMMINGS's sentencing, more than 300 victims submitted victim impact statements to Judge DANIELS. A number were present in court for today's sentencing and one addressed the court.

Defendants Ukpog and Ulutas also have pled guilty. Ukpog is scheduled to be sentenced before Manhattan United States District Judge GEORGE B. DANIELS on January 18, 2005, at 9:45 a.m. Ulutas is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge DANIELS on January

25, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. Baptiste awaits sentencing.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Postal Inspection Service. Mr. KELLEY also stated that the investigation is continuing.

PHILIP CUMMINGS, 35, lives in Cartersville, Georgia.

Assistant United States Attorneys MARCUS A. ASNER and BRIAN R. MICHAEL are in charge of the prosecution.

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